

CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling pests, which method comprises:
providing a particulate composition containing
5 particles of an unmagnetised, soft magnetic material, said
particles being associated with at least one pesticide or
behaviour modifying chemical;
exposing a surface of a pest to said particles, wherein
said particles become magnetically polarized by the electric
10 or magnetic field associated with the pest and become
attached to the pest, and wherein said particles remain
unmagnetised until exposed to the field associated with the
pest.
- 15 2. A method so claimed in claim 1, wherein said particles
comprise metallic iron, nickel or cobalt, or mixtures
thereof.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said
20 particles are coated with a material which is a carrier for
the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical, or coated
directly with the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical.
4. A method so claimed in claim 3, wherein the carrier
25 comprises a lipid, a resin or a polymer.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lipid is a
fatty acid, or an ester or salt thereof.
- 30 6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims,
wherein said particles have a unit weight corresponding to

that of a sphere of a diameter in the range of from 0.1 to 50 micrometres.

7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims,
5 wherein the pesticide is an insecticide, acaricide, fungicide, insect growth regulator or chemosterilant.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein the pesticide is a bacterium, fungus or virus.
- 10 9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6,
wherein the behaviour modifying chemical is a pheromone or allelochemical.
- 15 10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8,
wherein the pesticide is a chemical or naturally occurring insecticide or acaricide which comprises up to 10% by weight of the particulate composition.
- 20 11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 or claim 8, wherein the pesticide is a bacterium, fungus or virus which comprises up to 40% by weight of the particulate composition.
- 25 12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 or claim 9, wherein the behaviour modifying chemical comprises from 1 picogram to 1 microgram per particle having an average particle size of from 0.1 to 50 micrometers.
- 30 13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pest is lured to a dispenser in which one or more surfaces is coated with the particulate composition.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the pest is lured to the dispenser by a chemical attractant, biological attractant, food source, light, colour, visual pattern, infra red or acoustic source, or a combination thereof.